

against other exporters, not against foreign governments. I will continue my efforts in Congress to compel the executive branch to vigorously fight foreign trade barriers and utilize available tools such as the Export Enhancement Program and the Market Access Program to promote U.S. products abroad.

Furthermore, the State Department and the current administration must be forced to understand the economic consequences of utilizing food as a diplomatic weapon. Our farmers and ranchers cannot continue to bear the overwhelming burden of ineffective unilateral sanctions. The federal government should be required to identify funding sources to reimburse farmers for the reduction in prices caused by our government's actions, and this must occur before such actions are permitted to take place.

Agriculture is the bedrock of the American economy, and our agricultural productivity is the envy of the world. Assuring Colorado's farmers keep this edge in the global economy is one of my highest priorities in Congress.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 820) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes:

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, the U.S. Coast Guard provides many valuable services to our country. Among them are ice rescues. As many of us along the Great Lakes know, the Coast Guard has saved countless lives and provided invaluable services to our communities.

In the district which I represent, Macomb and St. Clair Counties, recreational uses of Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River, and Lake Huron are not just limited to summer activities. Ice fishing is a growing and popular recreational activity, but from time to time wayward fishermen find themselves in need of help.

Our communities do a great job in rescuing individuals from critical circumstances, but their rescue capacity could be greatly aided by a Husky Airboat stationed at the St. Clair Shores Coast Guard Station. As we consider the Coast Guard authorization bill, I hope the Coast Guard and committee authorizers will consider the import role the Coast Guard plays in ice rescues and will work toward providing adequate resources to satellite stations, like the one in St. Clair Shores, to fulfill their mission. I look forward to working with the Coast Guard and the committees of jurisdiction in this important matter.

THE WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that has one goal and one goal only—enabling individuals with disabilities to pursue their desire to work. In today's workplace, less than one-half of one percent of disabled Americans successfully move from disability benefits to employment and self-sufficiency. A recent Harris Survey, however, found that 72 percent of Americans with disabilities want to work but nearly 75 percent of persons with disabilities are unemployed. What is the problem, here?

Let me tell you about a man from my district. He is a 39-year-old Navy Veteran from Bay Shore, NY. Several years ago, he worked on Wall Street with the hopes of becoming a stockbroker. Unfortunately, an accident in 1983 left him a quadriplegic. Because of his injury, this man relies on a tracheostomy to help him breathe and speak.

He requires nurses or caregivers to clean his tracheostomy and requires 24-hour home care to assist him bathing, dressing, housekeeping, and numerous other daily activities. This individual's physical challenge, however, does not inhibit his ability to become a stockbroker. Ten years after his tragic accident, he successfully passed the "Series 7" test, a grueling 6-hour exam, to become a licensed stockbroker. Except for Federal barriers, he would be a stock broker today. He cannot, however, because he would lose his Medicaid and Medicare, which he needs to survive.

His situation is not unique. His predicament is replicated all across this country—by the millions. Suffolk County, NY, alone has 261,000 disabled individuals—most of whom want to work. Yet, disabled Americans must choose between working and surviving. Federal benefit programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provide benefits, including eligibility for health coverage through Medicare and Medicaid. Services that many disabled workers require, such as personal assistance, are often not covered by employer health care. So, when a disabled American secures a job and earns income, he or she may lose their government benefits and, subsequently, their health coverage.

This is why I have introduced the Work Incentives Improvement Act in the House of Representatives. The Federal Government should remove existing barriers and allow these individuals to work. Like all other Americans, disabled Americans deserve economic opportunity. They deserve the satisfaction that only a paycheck can bring. They deserve to be in control of their lives and have the peace of mind of independence and personal security. The Work Incentives Improvement Act takes significant steps toward reforming Federal disability programs, improving access to needed services, and releasing the shackles of dependency.

Look at today's disability program: more than 7.5 million disabled Americans receive benefits from SSI and SSDI. Providing assistance to these individuals costs the Government \$73 billion a year—making these dis-

ability programs the fourth largest entitlement expenditure in the Federal Government. Now, if only one 1 percent, or 75,000, of the 7.5 million disabled adults were to become employed, Federal savings in disability benefit would total \$3.5 billion over the lifetime of the individual. Removing barriers to work is a major benefit to disabled Americans in their pursuit of self-sufficiency, and it also contributes to preserving the Social Security trust fund.

The Work incentives Improvement Act would create new State options for SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who return to work to purchase the health care coverage they would otherwise be entitled to if they did not work. It would support a user-friendly, public-private approach job training and placement assistance for individuals with disabilities who want to work, and it provides for new ways to inform SSDI and SSI beneficiaries of available work incentives.

The man from Bay Shore, NY, said, "I want to work. I do not want to be a burden to taxpayers." The Work Incentives Improvement Act will help him become a successful stockbroker. When he does so, he hopes to open to open his own firm and hire people with disabilities.

Now is the time to make major progress toward removing barriers and enabling people with disabilities to work. Millions of Americans are waiting eagerly to unleash their creativity and pursue the American dream. They are waiting for us to act, Mr. Speaker. Let's act now.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 975, REDUCING VOLUME OF STEEL IMPORTS AND ESTABLISHING STEEL IMPORT NOTIFICATION AND MONITORING PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act of 1999. I believe this initiative provides a comprehensive approach to enforcing trade laws by stating clearly and forcefully that the United States does not and will not tolerate violations of trade laws by foreign corporations.

As we enter a new millennium, we must face and embrace globalism by ensuring that all our citizens have the skills required to compete in the international economy. Export-driven job growth ensures that our communities' living standards continue to rise.

The primary forces shaping our economy—globalization, digitalization, deregulation, and diversity—require that we consider a broader array of international trade and investment opportunities. The city of Memphis is considered America's Distribution Center, and trade liberalization will help us become the World's Distribution Center.

But, while I support free trade, I also support fair trade. When other countries employ unfair trading practices, we must respond in kind. The rules of the international trading system, as laid out in the World Trade Organization, are predicated upon fair trade. If a country violates these rules, the system itself suffers.

That is why we must respond forcefully when foreign firms are dumping their products in the United States at prices under the fair market value. That is why we must respond forcefully when huge import surges threaten American jobs. This bipartisan measure demonstrates to the rest of the world that there is a right way and a wrong way to pursue globalization.

The plight of Birmingham Steel, which operates a mini-mill in the Ninth District of Tennessee, is an example of how the current crisis is affecting working families in our country. In Memphis, Birmingham Steel employees manufacture steel that is eventually fashioned into wire rods. Since 1993, wire rod imports from non-NAFTA nations have increased 60 percent, and in the past 18 months these imports have increased by 16 percent. Surely, we need to rectify this situation.

We also need to be wary of the macroeconomic effects of the surge in imports. A recent Business Week article noted that the merchandise trade deficit widened by 25 percent in 1998, to a record \$248 billion. Most of this can be attributed to surging imports, such as the steel surges from Brazil, Russia, and Japan. Economists agree that while the U.S. economy continues to prosper and grow, a ballooning current account deficit could prompt a correction in stock prices, a weaker dollar, and possibly even a recession. In other words, our unprecedented record of high growth—while keeping inflation and unemployment low—is jeopardized by import surges.

About two decades ago, the U.S. steel industry was widely criticized for lagging competitiveness, excessively high prices, and low labor productivity. Both management and labor realized that they had to reinvent the way steel was produced in the United States. They did so through reinvestment, streamlining, and hard work. The steel industry has since turned itself into one of the most admired, productive sectors of U.S. business.

Now, as world trading rules are being flaunted, it is time for us to come to the aid of this proud industry, an industry that is crucial to our national defense and our American heritage. Our steel workers deserve better. The world trading system deserves better. For these reasons, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Bipartisan Steel Recovery Act of 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF A SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DAMS ON THE COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Pacific Northwest are currently engaged in a debate on the best way to ensure the survival and recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead. These fish are very important to the people of our region, and we are dedicated to ensuring their survival.

However, Mr. Speaker, ongoing studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service into the feasibility of removing federal dams to enhance fish runs have focused the fish recovery debate too narrowly. We do not need to choose be-

tween our economy and our salmon, which is precisely what those advocating the removal of dams are asking us to do. Instead, I believe we can have both a strong economy and healthy fish runs.

This Congress must make it clear that destroying the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers is not a "silver bullet" solution to restoring salmon runs. Losing the flood control, irrigation, clean power generation, and transportation benefits of these dams would be a grave mistake, and one not easily corrected. Instead, the federal government and the people of the Pacific Northwest must work together to address the entire range of factors impacting fish populations: habitat, harvest levels, hatcheries, dams, predators, and natural climate and ocean conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the people of the Northwest will save our salmon. But we must do so in a realistic and comprehensive way, and not by grasping for easy answers. I encourage all my colleagues to who believe that we can balance human needs with the needs of endangered and threatened species to support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF STEVE POPOVICH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steven Popovich, founder of the Cleveland International Record label.

Over the past 36 years Mr. Popovich has achieved considerable success in the music business by taking chances on artists and music at the fringes of the mainstream. For example, Popovich signed Meat Loaf to the Cleveland International label after Meat Loaf had been rejected by several record companies. After signing Meat Loaf, Popovich launched what is considered one of the most successful marketing campaigns ever. Popovich mixed the powerful CBS marketing department with grassroots efforts to make Meat Loaf a national icon.

Popovich's success with Meat Loaf provides just one example of how and why Popovich has been successful. Once he believes in someone he puts everything he has into making that person successful. This dedication has worked for Popovich regardless of the artist or type of music he is promoting.

In 1986 Popovich applied this formula to Polygram Nashville and turned the label into a success. Acts like Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, the Everly Brothers, and Kathy Mattea signed with Popovich and Polygram Nashville.

Popovich also signed polka legend Frankie Yankovic, the Polka King, to the label. Yankovic won a Grammy for his 1986 album "70 Years of Hits", which Popovich co-produced. Yankovic and his polka music were quick hits in Nashville. Popovich has since started Our Heritage, a polka and ethnic music subsidiary of Cleveland International.

In the fall of 1998 Popovich, along with his son, Steve, Jr., Ed Shimborske, and Michael Seday, formed another subsidiary of Cleveland International, Grappler Unlimited. With Grappler Unlimited, once again, Popovich is focusing on music that is perhaps outside the mainstream—punk.

His ear for music that is outside the mainstream, and his willingness to dedicate himself to it and the musicians who perform it, has enabled him to be successful for over 36 years. With his son at his side, Steve will undoubtedly continue to help all types of great music find an audience.

Ladies and gentlemen please join me in honoring Steve Popovich.

THE POLKA PUNK ROCKER

By Laura Demarco

Steve Popovich made Meat Loaf a main course and helped tell the world "Cleveland Rocks." Now, he's looking to strike gold again with the ethnic music of his roots—polka—and the DIY spirit of his son's passion—punk rock.

The walls of Steve Popovich's office don't have to talk to tell his story. Mixed in among the rows of gold and platinum records hang "I love kiska" and "polka naked" bumper stickers. A "Cleveland Rocks" sticker decorates the window. His son's high school class photo hangs near a backstage snapshot of Bruce Springsteen and Billy Joel. A huge, psychedelic poster of Meat Loaf is framed near a smiling reproduction of Frankie Yankovic.

It's a scene as colorful and complex as the man himself. Each memento stands for a part of Popovich's life: Music mogul. Proud ethnic. Even prouder father. Genius Meat Loaf marketer. Polka promoter. The man who helped Ian Hunter tell the world "Cleveland Rocks."

He's also the busy head of two new subsidiaries of his Cleveland International Record label, the ethnic/polka Our Heritage * * * Pass It On line and the punk/metal offshoot, Grappler Unlimited.

Why polka and punk? Like the other music Popovich has championed through his 36-year music industry career, they're styles that often get overlooked. Both have a devoted core of fans who buy the records, wear the fashions and seek out the shows. Neither gets radio play nor respect in mainstream media. Then again, neither did a certain hefty singer, until Popovich made Meat Loaf a household name.

Popovich may look like anything but a music mogul in his jeans, Cleveland International T-shirt and Pat Dailey's baseball cap, but he has struck gold more than once by betting on the underdog. Today, he's trying it again.

COAL MINER'S SON

Popovich doesn't like to talk about the past. He's rather discuss what he's working on now—expanding Our Heritage * * * Pass It On and promoting Grappler's first band, Porn Flakes.

But to understand how Popovich got to this cluttered, homey midtown office, you have to look at where he came from.

Born in 1942 to a Serbian father and Croatian-Slovenian mother in the coal-mining town of Nemacolin, Penn., Popovich's early life was a long way from the Manhattan office buildings he would find himself in years later. His father was a miner who opened a grocery store in the last two years of his life. It was from him and another father figure, Popovich's lifelong friend, Father Branko Skalcic, that his love for music began.

"My dad played in a tamburitza band with his two brothers and a couple other guys. They always played music around the house and sang. Fr. Branko came and taught us tambura [a stringed Balkan instrument] every Thursday."

Looking back, Popovich sees the importance of music for people in a place like Nemacolin.

"I really believe polka was our people's Prozac," he says. "When they were working